

TO: Members of the CGA Higher Education Committee
FROM: Danielle Lipson
DATE: February 10, 2009
RE: HB 6292

Last year I was fortunate enough to be selected for one of five contract positions at Iowa State University. The contract provides the core for what I believe is the solution to the fact that Connecticut does not have a vet school. The contract helps reduce debt, increases accessibility to a veterinary education, and decreases competition by providing reserved positions for Connecticut residents only.

It greatly concerns me that this program may be discontinued. Without the contract program, students applying for vet school will continue to face high levels of competition as a result of having to compete for limited seats in a non-resident pool of applicants. Furthermore, Connecticut students will accrue increased levels of debt which can make it difficult to return to practice in Connecticut as a consequence of the high cost of living.

There is currently a shortage of veterinarians in Connecticut. I believe the contract will alleviate this issue by providing better access to a veterinary education as well as reducing debt, which will make it more practical to return to work in an area with such a high cost of living.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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